

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03045 111425Z

44-55

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-20 PM-07 NSC-07 OC-06

CCO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 M-02 A-01

DRC-01 INRE-00 /078 W

----- 103460

O 111346Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8817

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

USCINCRED MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCAFRED PANGLEY AFB VA IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER IMMEDIATE

BERGSTROM AFB TEX IMMEDIATE

LITTLE ROCK AFB ARK IMMEDIATE

DYESS AFB TEX IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIAMEY 3045

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, NG

SUBJECT: U.S. AIR FORCE FLIGHTS-NIGER

REF: A. BAMAKO 2950; B. BAMAKO 2958

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER BOULAMA MANGA SUMMONED ME TO
MFA SEPTEMBER 10 TO REGISTER PROTEST OVER C-130 FLIGHT WHICH
HAD TOUCHED DOWN NIAMEY MORNING SEPTEMBER 9 TO OFF-LOAD FOUR
DIPLOMATIC POUCHES OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. HE SAID GON
DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE WITH OUR NORMAL DIPLOMATIC SHIP-
MENTS NOR COMPLICATE PROBLEMS OF AIRLIFT US WAS ORGANIZING
FOR DROUGHT RELIEF PURPOSES IN CHAD. HOWEVER, REPEATED
CHANGES IN FLIGHT PLAN ON SHORT NOTICE AND OVER WEEKEND
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 03045 111425Z

AND ABBREVIATED LANDING IN NIAMEY WITH ENGINES RUNNING

WHILE CARGO OFF-LOADED WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE AND LEFT GON CONFUSED AS TO WHAT AIRCRAFT WAS COMING, WHEN AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE. PROBLEM AGGRAVATED BY FACT EMBASSY SIMULTANEOUSLY ASKING FOR OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR OTHER AIRCRAFT AND FLIGHT PLANS ALSO KEPT CHANGING.

2. I TOLD ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER THAT AIRCRAFT STOP-OVER MORNING SEPTEMBER 9 WAS ON LEGITIMATE BUSINESS AND EXPRESSED REGRET FOR ANY PROBLEMS THIS HAS CAUSED GON. I ADDED EMBASSY WAS GRATEFUL FOR COOPERATION AUTHORITIES HAD SHOWN IN ARRANGING FOR LANDING AND PROMPT CLEARANCE OF DIPLOMATIC CARGO.

3. SITUATED AS WE ARE IN LANDLOCKED COUNTRY AT END OF LONG SUPPLY LINE, WE ARE TREMENDOUSLY DEPENDENT ON AIR TRANSPORT FOR ESSENTIAL OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL SUPPLIES AND WE EXPEND CONSIDERABLE EFFORT MASSAGING AIRPORT AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TO INSURE THEIR COOPERATION WHICH SO FAR HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING. WE ARE LOATH TO GO THROUGH ANOTHER EXERCISE OF THIS TYPE UNLESS WE CAN BE ASSURED IT WILL PROCEED ON SCHEDULE AND CONFORM TO GON CLEARANCE AND LANDING REQUIREMENTS.

4. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO USAF FOR ASSISTING IN TRANSPORT OF ESSENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BUT IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT FORTHCOMING FLIGHT SCHEDULED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, TO TRANSPORT LAST REMAINING CASE OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, I PLAN TO SEE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER SEPTEMBER 13 TO INFORM HIM ABOUT FLIGHT NOTING WE ALREADY HAVE FLIGHT CLEARANCE. HOWEVER, REQUEST AIRCRAFT MAKE NORMAL TRANSIT STOP TURNING OFF ENGINES AND FOLLOWING REGULAR TRANSIT CHECK-IN PROCEDURES. IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES IN MONDAY FLIGHT PLAN FOR WHICH WE HAVE CLEARANCE, REQUEST FLIGHT BE POSTPONED UNTIL WE CAN GIVE GON NORMAL 72-HOUR NOTICE FOR NEW FLIGHT.HECK

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